

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           **Claim 1 (previously presented):**   A high frequency  
2   heating apparatus for heating a thing to be heated,  
3   comprising:  
4           a high frequency generating portion;  
5           a heating chamber for accommodating the thing to be  
6   heated;  
7           a steam supply portion for supplying steam into the  
8   heating chamber located in the lower back portion of the  
9   heating chamber, and,  
10          a partition plate which serves to mount the thing to  
11   be heated thereon and is provided to be upward removable  
12   apart from a bottom face of the heating chamber at a  
13   predetermined interval, thereby dividing a space in the  
14   heating chamber,  
15          wherein at least one of a high frequency and steam  
16   generating portion is supplied to the heating chamber,  
17          wherein the steam is supplied into an upper space  
18   positioned above the partition plate.

**Claim 2 (canceled)**

1           **Claim 3 (currently amended):**   The high frequency  
2   heating apparatus according to claim 2 1, wherein a gap is  
3   provided between a peripheral edge of the partition plate  
4   and a side wall of the heating chamber, and the steam  
5   generated in the steam generating portion passes through a  
6   side wall of the heating chamber and is guided to the upper  
7   space of the heating chamber through the gap.

1           **Claim 4 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2   apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the partition plate  
3   has a through hole on a peripheral part, and the steam  
4   generated in the steam generating portion is guided to the  
5   upper space of the heating chamber via the through hole.

1           **Claim 5 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2   apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate  
3   includes a high frequency heating member.

1           **Claim 6 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2   apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate  
3   includes a high frequency shielding unit.

1           **Claim 7 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2   apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the high frequency  
3   shielding unit includes a metal plate.

1           **Claim 8 (original):**     The high frequency heating  
2     apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising  
3     preheating means for raising an atmospheric temperature in  
4     the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 9 (original):**     The high frequency heating  
2     apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating  
3     means includes an upper heater provided in an upper part of  
4     the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 10 (original):**    The high frequency heating  
2     apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the preheating  
3     means includes a high frequency heating member provided on  
4     the partition plate.

1           **Claim 11 (original):**    The high frequency heating  
2     apparatus according to claim 1, wherein steam delivery  
3     means has a steam delivery path for guiding generated steam  
4     from an inner part of the heating chamber to an outside of  
5     the heating chamber, thereby introducing the steam into the  
6     heating chamber again.

1           **Claim 12 (original):**    The high frequency heating  
2    apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate  
3    is engaged with an engaging portion provided in a plurality  
4    of height positions on an internal wall surface of the  
5    heating chamber.

1           **Claim 13 (currently amended):** The high frequency  
2    heating apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the steam  
3    generating portion is provided along a wall surface on a  
4    back side of a bottom face of the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 14 (original):**    The high frequency heating  
2    apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the steam supply  
3    portion is constituted in such a manner that the steam  
4    directly hits upon the thing to be heated.

1           **Claim 15 (original):**    The high frequency heating  
2    apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising high  
3    frequency distributing means for distributing and supplying  
4    a high frequency into the heating chamber.

1           **Claim 16 (original):**    The high frequency heating  
2    apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a  
3    control portion for controlling the high frequency  
4    generating portion, the steam supply portion and the  
5    preheating means,

6           the control portion being constituted to execute, in  
7   this order, a preheating step of heating the heating  
8   chamber by heat generation of the preheating means and a  
9   main heating step of supplying at least one of a high  
10   frequency generated from the high frequency generating  
11   portion and steam supplied from the steam supply portion to  
12   carry out a heating process over the thing to be heated.

1           **Claim 17 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2   apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising a  
3   control portion for controlling the high frequency  
4   generating portion, the steam supply portion and the  
5   preheating means,

6           the control portion having an interrupt processing  
7   function for supplying steam from the steam supply portion  
8   into the heating chamber for a predetermined time while the  
9   thing to be heated is heated.

1           **Claim 18 (original):**   The high frequency heating  
2   apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising a steam  
3   supply switch for executing the interrupt processing in an  
4   optional timing.

1           **Claim 19 (new):** The high frequency heating apparatus  
2   according to claim 1 further comprising:  
3           a feed water tank;  
4           a feed water pipe connecting the feed water tank to  
5   the steam supply portion where the feed water pipe further  
6   comprises an intermediate portion; and,  
7           a heater to heat the water in the intermediate  
8   portion.

1           **Claim 20 (new):** The high frequency heating apparatus  
2   according to claim 1 further comprising an evaporator pan  
3   having a detachable cover.